

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
December 7, 2005
Fish and Game Headquarters
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Steven Huffaker, Terry Mansfield, Deputy Director; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Don Kemner, Wildlife Staff Biologist; Jeff Gould, Wildlife Game Manager; Ed Mitchell, Conservation Public Information; Mary Boyer, Administrative Assistant and Roger Phillips, from the Idaho Statesman.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marcus Gibbs at 11:03 a.m. with Commissioners Cameron Wheeler, Alex Irby, Wayne Wright and Tony Mc Dermott participating. John Watts joined the call at 11:06 a.m. with Gary Power being absent.

Chairman Gibbs gave the floor to Director Huffaker. Director Huffaker stated that there was one item on the agenda for the call today; to set the turkey regulations for the 2006 and 2007 season. Director Huffaker asked Don Kemner to give his presentation.

RULES

Game Birds: 2006 / 2007 Wild Turkey Seasons

Don Kemner informed staff that turkey hunting continues to grow with 30,000 tags sold for this year. This is an increase of 3,000 to 4,000 tags from last year sales.

The Department would like to simplify the turkey regulations by going to a two year cycle for the 2006 and 2007 with the rules brochure covering both years.

Mr. Kemner reviewed the 2006 and 2007 Wild Turkey Season Proposals. There are no changes proposed for the 2006 and 2007 Spring General Hunts (bearded turkeys only).

Proposals for the 2006 and 2007 Spring Controlled Hunts (bearded turkeys only) will increase the number of permits in several units to provide more hunting opportunities for these areas.

Due to the spring decline in the past two years, staff is recommending that the 2006 and 2007 Fall General Season (any turkey) be closed in Units 33 and 39 and to change the ending date from October 4 to October 9 in the Southwest Region. Historically turkey season ends the day before deer season opens.

No changes are proposed for the 2006 and 2007 Fall Controlled Hunt Season (any turkey).

Commissioner Watts reported that the Idaho Bird Hunters oppose the recommendation to close the fall hunt in Units 33 and 39 in the Southwest Region.

05-74 Commissioner Irby moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion TO ADPOT, BY PROCLAMATION, THE 2006 AND 2007 TURKEY SEASON RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT (APPENDIX 37, EXHIBIT 108.)

The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Adjournment 11:20 a.m.